

Sub C2
17. (AMENDED) A method for breaking the dormancy or quiescence of a plant comprising the steps of:

providing an agricultural composition comprising at least one lipo
chitoooligosaccharide (LCO) and an agriculturally suitable carrier; and
applying the composition in the vicinity of a seed, tuber or root in an
effective amount to enable a breaking of the dormancy or quiescence of
said seed, tuber, or root, in comparison to an untreated seed, tuber, or root.

Sub C3
26. (AMENDED) A method for enhancing seed germination, seedling emergence or growth of a plant crop comprising the steps of:

providing a rhizobial strain which expresses a lipo chitoooligosaccharide (LCO); and

incubating the rhizobial strain in the vicinity of one of a seed or root of said plant such that said LCO enhances seed germination, seedling emergence or growth of said plant crop, wherein said incubation enhances seed germination, seedling emergence or growth in comparison to a non-inoculated seed or root of said plant.